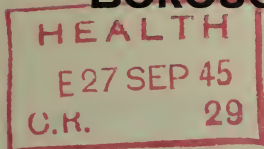


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BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH.



Annual Report

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health.

1944

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : ALDERMAN J. SEDDON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR P. HELME.

Members :

The Mayor (Alderman J. Heathcote, J.P.)

Alderman (Rev.) J. Wilcockson

Alderman A. Jones, J.P.

Councillor A. Hindley

„ R. H. Rowlands, C.C.

„ R. H. Urmson, J.P.

„ A. H. R. Willis

„ J. Dean

„ F. Balmforth

„ H. H. Bradshaw

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : COUNCILLOR R. H. ROWLANDS, C.C.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR J. ALMOND

Members :

THE MAYOR (ALDERMAN J. HEATHCOTE, J.P.)

Alderman (Rev.) J. Wilcockson

Alderman A. Jones, J.P.

Alderman W. McManus, J.P.

Councillor S. Beck

„ S. Bowling

„ F. Balmforth

„ P. Smith

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. Cooper

Mrs. Scott

Mrs. Jones

Mrs. Stevenson

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health . R. Sydney Davidson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Ante-natal Clinic ... C. E. B. Rickards, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G.

Ophthalmic Surgeon.....John Morrison, M.B. Ch.B. (also School Oculist).

Aural Surgeon W. B. McKelvie, M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S., D.L.O.
(also School Aurist)

Dental Surgeon G. C. Royley, L.D.S. (also School Dental
Officer)

Chief Sanitary Inspector * H. T. Ogden, M.S.I.A. Cert. R.S.I., S.I.E.
Jt. Board, R.S.I. Food Inspection.

Senior Sanitary Inspector...A. H. S. Lewis, Cert. R.S.I., S.I.E. Jt. Board
(Promoted May 9th) R.S.I., Food Inspection.

Sanitary Inspector R. Hilton (appointed 1st September), Cert.
R.S.I., S.I.E. Jt. Board, R.S.I. Food Inspection.

Health Visitors :.....Miss A. Pendlebury, A.R.S.I. Certs M.C.W.
(also School Nurses) and C.M.B.

Mrs. F. Cunliffe, S.R.N. (retired 30th June).

Miss P. Law, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.)
(resigned 30th April).

Miss H. E. S. Holmes, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
(R.S.I.) (resigned 30th June, recommenced
2nd October).

Miss J. M. Millar S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.)
(commenced 15th May).

Miss C. E. Ashley, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
(R.S.I.) (commenced 10th July).

Clerks.....T. Shaw (part time)
Miss J. Harrison (part time)

*Died Apr. 28th, 1944

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Council.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough together with the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector for the year 1944.

The Birth Rate of 19.8 for the Borough compares favourably with 17.6 per 1,000 population for England and Wales, but is less than that of 148 towns with a resident population of 25,000—50,000, which is 20.9.

The Death Rate of the greater towns is 13.7, the 148 smaller towns 12.4, and of the Borough 12.5.

The infantile deaths under one year number 20, and this gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 39.8 per 1,000 live births, the lowest on record for the Borough. The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 46, for the greater towns 52, and the lesser towns 44. The Council's generous maternity scheme and the work of the Health Visitors, has much to do with this low Infantile Mortality Rate.

I am grateful for the help and encouragement afforded to me by the members of the Health Committee, and for loyal co-operation of the Staff of the Public Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area = 1504 statute acres.

Population = Census, 1931 28,717

Estimated, 1944 (middle) ... 25,270.

Vital Statistics of the Year.

BIRTHS :

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	476	241	235
Illegitimate	26	19	7
Total	502	260	242
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	19.8		
Still Births	19	5	14
Rate per 1,000 Total Births...	36		

DEATHS : 317 152 165

Death-rate per 1,000
population 12.5

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :

Legitimate	20	13	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant Mortality Rate ...	39.8		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)...	...	42	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	2	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...	Nil		

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1944.

Cancer	42
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	19
Other forms of tuberculosis	3
Appendicitis	1
Diabetes	2
Heart disease	93
Other circulatory diseases...	6
Bronchitis	23
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	3
Influenza	2
Diphtheria	3
Other respiratory diseases	3
Other digestive diseases ...	3
Syphilitic diseases	2
Measles	2

Nephritis	10
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	36
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	17
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1
Road traffic accidents	2
Suicide	4
Other deaths from violence	9
Other maternal causes	1
All other causes	30
Total	317

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(1) Smallpox.

Cases of smallpox from the area are treated at the Ainsworth Hospital under the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board.

(2) Other Infectious Diseases.

Infectious disease other than smallpox are accommodated at Ladywell Sanatorium, Salford, and at the Infectious Diseases Hospital of the Bolton Corporation.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The ambulances serving the area are jointly maintained by the contiguous local authorities of Farnworth, Kearsley and Little Lever

The service embraces the removal of all accidents in this area, and the transference to and from hospital of cases for treatment.

During the year the two main ambulances covered 8,415 miles and 5,931 miles, and the reserve ambulance, which is only used in extreme urgency, covered 1,264 miles.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS.

Swabs (for diphtheria)	43 (14 positive)
Blood (for enteric fever)	1 (negative)

MIDWIVES.

There are four midwives serving the district under the supervising authority of the Lancashire County Council. These midwives attend the Farnworth Ante-natal Clinic with their cases.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Clinic in Albert Road, which was erected in 1938, serves as a school clinic, for minor ailments, Aural Clinic, Ophthalmic Clinic and Dental Clinic situated in one half of the building, and the other half serves the many clinics of the Maternity and Child Welfare Service.

The attendances show an increase over 1943 of nearly 1,000 in the minor ailments school clinic, and an increase in the child welfare clinic with 7,354 attendances against an average attendance of 6,809 for the previous five years. The Medical Officer's Infant Clinic has also shown an increase of 41 over the previous year. The Ante-natal Clinic also shows an increase of 59 over the number of mothers attending in 1943.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General.

This is carried out by the District Nursing Association, which is a voluntary body supported by free-will contributions. It is affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and is in receipt of an annual subscription from the Borough Council.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

Arrangements have been made with the District Nursing Association for the services of a trained nurse in cases of puerperal pyrexia and the notifiable forms of pneumonia. The Council reimburse the Nursing Association at the rate of 1/- to 1/6 per visit.

The Health Visitors and School Nurses, who have access to most houses in the Borough are ever ready to advise parents in the management and nursing of sick persons.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT

1. HEALTH VISITING.

The Council employs four nurses, who hold the joint posts of health visitors and school nurses.

Number of visits paid during the year :—

Visits :—First visits	...	...	...	477
Revisits, under 1 year	...	...	...	1985
„ 1-5 years	...	...	...	3569
Expectant Mothers :—				
First visits	...	...	...	155
Revisits	...	...	...	199
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	32
Infant Life Protection	...	...	...	6
Special visits	...	...	...	261
Total	...	...	...	6684

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

Of the 20 infant deaths which occurred during the year, 12 were premature born babies. Of these 2 suffered from congenital heart disease, and one from spina bifida. In 9 instances the cause of death was given as prematurity only, and 8 of these 9 were born in hospital and under hospital treatment until death.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

The Lancashire County Council have now in operation a scheme for the supervision and care of illegitimate children throughout the County, to which scheme the Borough of Farnworth is a contributor.

2. CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

This clinic is held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons for the weighing of babies and the sale of food, and the Medical Officer's clinic every Monday afternoon.

During the year 512 consultations were given by the Medical Officer.

Particulars of attendances are shown below :—

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the clinic during the year, and who, on the date of their first attendance were :

(i) Under 1 year of age	...	425
(ii) Over 1 year of age		13

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the clinic during the year, and who, at the end of the year were :—

(i) Under 1 year of age	...	382
(ii) Over 1 year of age		807
Total number of attendances	...	7354
Average attendance per session	...	49
Expectant Mothers : Number	...	418
Attendances	...	2351

The usual well known brands of milk are stocked at the clinic and are available for sale to mothers who avail themselves of the clinic's services.

3. ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC.

During the year 49 sessions were held, with the Gynæcologist in attendance.

366 expectant mothers came for consultation and examination, and they made 1,080 attendances. Of the 366 cases, 104 attended on one occasion only, 67 came twice, 61 three times, 66 four times, 38 five times, 16 six times, 8 seven times, 4 eight times, 1 nine times, 1 twelve times. 207 were expectant for the first time (primiparæ). The ages of the primiparæ are shown in the following table:—

Under 20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	Over 40
28	89	42	35	9	4

All abnormal conditions found on examination were given appropriate treatment.

4. MATERNITY CASES.

336 of the women who had attended the Ante-natal Clinic were confined during the year. The following table gives particulars regarding the confinements:—

	Primiparæ.	Multiparæ.
No. confined	158	178
Confinement at home	43	76
„ „ Townleys Hospital	105	87
„ „ St. Mary's Hospitals	3	3
„ „ other Institutions	3	3
Removed from district before confinement	1	6
Miscarriage	3	3
Vertex presentation	154	164
Breech presentation	2	6
B.B.A.	—	4
Other	—	3
Labour normal	144	171
Labour normal but prolonged	5	—
Forceps delivery	6	2
Cæsarian section	3	5
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	—	1
Intra-partum hæmorrhage	1	—
Adherent placenta	2	—
Ruptured perineum	10	2
Condition of mother satisfactory	155	177
Puerperal mania	1	—
Thrombo phlebitis	1	1
Maternal death	1	—

Condition of child :

Alive and well	153	172
Still-born	2	5
Died within 1 month	4	3

There was one maternal death during the year, due to Puerperal Eclampsia.

HOSPITAL MATERNITY SCHEME.

Arrangements have existed in Farnworth for many years whereby an expectant mother can be admitted to hospital for her confinement should the condition of the mother or her home warrant it. Such cases were admitted to Townleys Hospital or St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester, and the Council paid the total cost, recovering a portion or the whole of this cost from the mother, according to her financial position.

In February of the year under review, the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee launched a new scheme in which the Council paid the cost of hospital treatment for the expectant mother for the whole period of detention in hospital, and recovered from the mother the whole or part of the cost, according to her means, for 12 days only. The Council also revised the income scale on which contributions from the mother towards the cost of her stay in hospital were based. The new scale is most fair and generous from the mothers point of view.

The new scheme does away with the one great hardship of its predecessor. An expectant mother, who is recommended to hospital for her confinement, is told after particulars of her family income are obtained, the exact amount it will cost her to have her baby in hospital, and she can make payment forthwith or by two or three instalments before she enters hospital. Any excess of twelve days' detention of the mother in hospital is paid for in full by the Council. This is a most progressive step in Maternity Welfare. Under the old scheme an expectant mother, kept in hospital longer than twelve days, was faced with added expense for which she herself could hardly be held responsible. A mother convalescing from a difficult childbirth is, under the new scheme, happily saved from such worries, which prevent a rapid recovery. Under the new scheme, too, bad debts are non-existent.

192 cases were admitted to Townleys Hospital, and 6 cases to St. Mary's Hospitals, during 1944.

5. CONVALESCENT HOMES.

Post-natal cases requiring convalescence may be sent to the Lear Home of Recovery, West Kirby.

The Child Welfare Department have a cot for its use at the North of England Children's Sanatorium, Southport, and two pre-school children were sent there in 1944. The cot was taken over by the Education Committee in April.

6. HOME HELPS.

It is difficult in war-time to maintain an efficient staff for Home Helps, and only one case was attended during the year.

7. EMERGENCY UNIT.

In the case of confinement taking place at home, arrangements have been made with St. Mary's Hospitals for an emergency unit to be provided if the patient is so gravely ill that removal to a hospital would be dangerous. There were no cases requiring this service during 1944.

8. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

At the end of the year there were no cases on the register.

9. DENTAL TREATMENT.

For expectant and nursing mothers.

No. of mothers referred for treatment ...	27
„ „ „ treated	20
„ „ attendances	97
„ „ permanent fillings	36
„ „ „ extractions	82
„ „ scalings and polishings	8
„ „ dentures	6
Other treatment to permanent teeth ...	13

For pre-school children.

No. of children referred for treatment ...	26
„ „ „ treated	22
„ „ attendances	29
„ „ fillings in temporary teeth ...	12
„ „ temporary extractions	18
„ „ cases given advice	12
Other treatment to temporary teeth ...	1

10. MINOR AILMENTS.

151 pre-school children attended the clinic during the year, making in all 635 attendances.

11. THROAT, NOSE AND EAR DEFECTS.

Dr. W. B. McKelvie, Aural Surgeon to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and to the Education Committee, held 19 sessions during the year. 34 pre-school children were examined and treated.

13 pre-school children had operative treatment at Bolton Royal Infirmary and Townleys Hospital.

12. ORTHOPÆDICS.

At the Lancashire County Council Orthopædic Clinic, Kearsley, 23 pre-school children attended during the year, making 48 attendances. Through the Clinic 18 surgical appliances i.e., boots, irons etc., were supplied. In-patient hospital treatment was afforded to three pre-school children, one at Biddulph Orthopædic Hospital (Lancashire C.C.), and two at Children's Orthopædic Hospital, Marple.

13. EYE DEFECTS.

The School Oculist examined during the year 69 pre-school children. In 23 cases suitable glasses were prescribed, and for the remainder other treatment was advised.

14. WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

The average daily attendance for the Park Street War-time Nursery, was 32 per day, and for the Bridgewater Street War-time Day and Night Nursery, 29 per day.

15. CLEANLINESS.

One of the duties of the Health Visitor and School Nurse is teaching cleanliness of the home and of the person. An incessant war is waged against head lice, and this occupies a large proportion of the Nurses' time.

In many homes the head louse is regarded as a natural inhabitant of children's hair, and it has been necessary during the year to institute proceedings against parents in two instances where dirty heads in the family persisted after repeated warnings. Convictions were obtained in both cases.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA. $\frac{1}{2}$:

During the year 18 cases of diphtheria (including 1 case from Townleys Hospital belonging to Bolton), were notified, against an average of 15 for the previous 5 years. There were three deaths in hospital

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

Antitoxin is provided by the Council, free of charge, to general practitioners for patients residing within the Borough. A supply has been available in 8,000 and 10,000 units for therapeutic use. During the year, antitoxin to the amount of 120,000 units was issued.

ACTIVE IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The immunisation clinic has been held weekly during the year, and the Table given hereunder shows the immunisations done since 1936 in the various age-groups.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Persons inoculated each year from 1936—1944.

Age at date of inoculation.	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
0—1	—	—	—	11	10	31	62	56	26
1—2	70	30	88	48	32	61	161	145	168
2—3	45	13	41	23	16	40	93	52	47
3—4	50	7	47	11	6	47	95	30	11
4—5	53	14	56	16	6	37	65	34	14
5—6	74	6	61	7	11	43	90	24	15
6—7	74	6	44	7	8	27	92	22	11
7—8	41	8	39	5	2	32	109	14	13
8—9	58	8	40	5	3	34	108	18	13
9—10	40	9	35	3	1	31	87	11	6
10—11	29	3	48	4	4	40	133	19	5
11—12	21	7	53	2	4	63	100	13	2
12—13	15	4	47	4	1	65	104	10	3
13—14	9	—	35	1	3	38	74	11	1
14—15	2	1	13	1	—	4	9	6	—
15 & over	1	—	12	—	—	1	1	—	—
Total each yr.	582	116	659	148	107	594	1383	465	335

Approximate number immunised at 31st December, 1944, in the following age-groups:

Under 5	5—14	15 & over	Total
967	2,713	709	4,389

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 31 cases of scarlet fever notified, and of these 14 were treated at hospital, and the remainder at home. There were no deaths. The average for the previous 5 years was 95 cases.

PNEUMONIA.

There were 33 cases notified during the year. The average number during the previous five years was 27. There was one death of a notified case.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

During the year 12 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified from Townleys Hospital. Only one of these was a Farnworth resident. One belonged to Westhoughton, and the remainder were from Bolton

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

One case was notified during the year, and the child recovered after hospital treatment.

Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Disease.	No.
Scarlet fever.	31
Diphtheria.	18
Acute primary pneumonia.	33
Puerperal pyrexia.	12
Ophthalmia neonatorum.	1
Cerebro spinal fever.	1
Erysipelas.	11
Measles.	178
Whooping Cough.	24

Cases removed to hospital :—

Scarlet fever	14
Diphtheria	16
Cerebro spinal fever	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1
Erysipelas	1
Whooping Cough	1

TUBERCULOSIS :

Cases notified :—

Respiratory	20
Non-respiratory	7

The treatment of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

SCABIES.

Scabies are still prevalent, and cases are not infrequently discovered at School Clinics and at Routine Medical Inspection at the Schools. In every case enquiries are instituted as to the sleeping accommodation, and the adults in close relation to the child are urged to attend for treatment.

No. of pre-school children treated ...	26
„ „ „ „ „ attendances	62
„ „ „ „ „ school children treated ...	103
„ „ „ „ „ attendances...	872
„ „ „ „ „ adults treated ...	19
„ „ „ „ „ attendances ...	60

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

A constant water supply is provided by the Bolton Corporation directly to all dwellings in the Borough, and the supply is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

This is almost entirely on the combined system. There is one main sewage disposal plant at Hall Lane Sewage Works, and a subsidiary plant at Lark Hill

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Accommodation at the end of 1944 :—

Number of privy middens	...	...	4
„ closets attached to these middens	...	...	12
„ pail closets	...	...	5
„ fresh water closets	...	...	8868
„ waste water closets	...	...	280
„ dry ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	Nil
„ movable ashbins for refuse	...	...	8456
„ houses on water carriage system	...	...	8263

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

There is a weekly collection of all household refuse in Farnworth, and at the same time a collection of salvage for war purposes. The refuse is taken to a tip situated away from all dwelling houses, where controlled tipping is in operation. This work is carried out by three covered motor vehicles, and the staff of the Cleansing Department under the Borough Surveyor

Sanitary Inspections during 1944 (including Housing).

No. of premises visited, 1245.

Defects or nuisances : No. discovered 1252, No. abated 1030.

No. of notices served : Informal 565. Statutory 70.

There were no legal proceedings.

Shops and Offices

	Inspections	Defects and Contraven- tions	Remedied
(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences	14	—	—
(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc	—	—	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action taken.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	No. of In- spections	Notices	Prosecu- tions
1. Factories with mechanical power	33	4	—
Factories without mechanical power	46	12	—
Other premises	—	—	—
2. No. of defects found	18		

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken during the year :—

No. of houses disinfested :—

(a) By Hydrogen Cyanide (carried out by Contractor)					
(1)	Council houses	...	...	...	16
(2)	Other houses	...	...	...	1
(b) Insecticides.					
(1)	Council houses	...	...	...	10
(2)	Other houses	...	...	...	61

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 9 dairy farms in the district with approximately 250 cows. The farms are inspected at frequent intervals for sanitary defects, and to ensure that the provisions of The Milk and Dairies Orders are carried out. They are all provided with dairies which have no communication with other buildings. 31 visits were made to farms and 69 visits to dairies and milk shops.

A large modern pasteurising plant is situated in the district, and receives careful supervision and frequent inspection.

EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES.

19 samples were examined during the year, 2 of which were bacteriologically unsatisfactory. Tubercle bacilli were found in two samples.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All premises where food is stored or exposed for sale are inspected at regular intervals. During the year the following food was condemned and surrendered: 777 lbs. beef, 55 lbs. veal, 39 lbs. butter, 10 lbs. bacon, 63 lbs. dates, 22 tins meat, 7.595 tins milk, and 410 tins assorted foodstuffs.

(c) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council are the Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Inspector in collaboration with the local Sanitary Inspector.

Particulars of samples taken during the year :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	12
Other articles	...	...	...	...	6

No legal proceedings were taken.